

## Message Text

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13

ORIGIN SS-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 PCH-06 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14

RSC-01 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00 /114 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:SRGAMMON:GSSPRINGSTEEN:JLH

APPROVED BY M - AMBASSADOR BROWN

----- 076468

R 302242Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: ACOM, AREG, ASEC

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; DAKAR PASS NOUAKCHOTT

REF: A-6321, AUGUST 9, 1974

1. POSTS HAVE BEEN REMINDED BY REFAIRGRAM OF IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO PROPER CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS, BASED ON STRICT INTERPRETATION OF CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS. RELATED PROBLEM TO WHICH DEPARTMENT WISHES INVITE POSTS' ATTENTION IS ESTABLISHING CORRECT NEED-TO-KNOW CRITERIA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF TELEGRAMS AND AIRGRAMS. USE OF SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION CAPTIONS BY DRAFTING AND AUTHORIZING OFFICERS IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO DEPARTMENT IN DISTRIBUTING CLASSIFIED MESSAGES OF UNUSUAL SENSITIVITY ONLY TO THOSE WITH GENUINE NEED TO KNOW. SUCH MESSAGES NORMALLY RELATE  
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TO POLITICALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, NEGOTIATING STRATEGY,

ATTITUDES OF KEY OFFICIALS OF HOST GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE INJURIOUS TO PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS IF SUCH INFORMATION BECAME KNOWN. DEPARTMENT RELIES ON POSTS TO SUPPLY GUIDANCE BY USING SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION CAPTIONS IF APPROPRIATE TO TELEGRAMS CONTENTS.

2. AS POSTS ARE AWARE FOUR SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION CAPTIONS

ARE AUTHORIZED.

A. STADIS MESSAGES ARE DISTRIBUTED INITIALLY ONLY WITHIN DEPARTMENT. THIS CAPTION SHOULD BE USED WHEN DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICATION TO OTHER AGENCIES WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO BEST INTERESTS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IT DOES NOT EFFECT DISTRIBUTION WITHIN DEPARTMENT. IT MAY BE USED ALONE OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE OF FOLLOWING THREE CAPTIONS, WHICH DO LIMIT DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTION.

B. LIMDIS MESSAGES ARE THOSE OF MORE THAN USUAL SENSITIVITY. THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED BY DEPARTMENTS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN CONSULTATION WITH OPERATIONS CENTER, AND NUMBER OF COPIES DISTRIBUTED IS VERY SHARPLY REDUCED FROM USUAL DISTRIBUTION PATTERN. POSTS SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER USE OF THIS CAPTION FOR MATTERS OF SENSITIVITY LESS THAN THAT COVERED BY EXDIS OR NODIS LABEL.

C. EXDIS MESSAGES ARE DEVOTED TO MATTERS OF HIGH SENSITIVITY. THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED BY THE OPERATIONS CENTER UNDER EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT CONTROL. THEY ARE GENERALLY DISTRIBUTED TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED, TO ACTION BUREAUS AND LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER NEED TO KNOW USERS IN DEPARTMENT OR OTHER AGENCIES.

D. NODIS CAPTION SHOULD BE USED ONLY FOR MESSAGES OF HIGHEST SENSITIVITY. NODIS AND STADIS MESSAGES ARE DOUBLE ENCRYPTED AND CAN THEREFORE BE READ ONLY BY STATE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AT HOME AND ABROAD. WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTION IS CONTROLLED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND IMMEDIATE DEPUTIES. DISTRIBUTION IS VERY LIMITED, FREQUENTLY ONLY TO THE SECRETARY, TWO OR THREE PRINCIPALS, ACTION ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND NSC.

3. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT DRAFTING AND AUTHORIZING OFFICERS MAKE JUDICIOUS BUT EFFECTIVE USE OF THESE DISTRIBUTION CAPTIONS WHICH ENABLE DEPARTMENT TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR

JUDGMENT OF SENSITIVITY OF MESSAGE CONTENT. NEED-TO-KNOW QUESTION IS OFTEN DISTINCT FROM THAT OF CLASSIFICATION LEVEL AND REQUESTS THAT DRAFTING AND AUTHORIZING OFFICERS FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES IS OF GREATER MOMENT TO DEPARTMENT AND LARGER OVERSEAS MISSIONS THAN TO SMALLER ONES.

4. OFFICERS IN THE FIELD HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THESE CAPTIONS JUDICIOUSLY. THEY SHOULD NOT SEND THEIR

REPLIES AUTOMATICALLY IN THE SAME DISTRIBUTION CATEGORY AS AN INCOMING INSTRUCTION. IF THERE IS GREATER SENSITIVITY IN THAT REPLY USE A MORE RESTRICTIVE CAPTION. INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** A-6321, AUGUST 9, 1974  
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**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; DAKAR PASS NOUAKCHOTT  
**TAGS:** ACOM, AREG, ASEC  
**To:** ALL POSTS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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